

As Director of Central Intelligence, I fully accept responsibility for maintaining the integrity and objectivity of the intelligence process. Since coming aboard, I have carefully reviewed with the senior leaders of the Intelligence Community and many others in and outside government the two requirements that we must fulfill with our intelligence output: maintaining the objectivity and integrity of the process, while assuring the relevance of the product. This involves a careful balancing of the demands of these two basic requirements. For example, while we normally consult with policymakers on what questions we need to pursue in support of their deliberations, we do not seek to clear the answers we develop with them. Indeed, the product may not always be congenial to their preconceptions, and preferences, although it should always be relevant to their deliberations while leaving the decisions to them. We all recognize that it is particularly important that we avoid the twin extremes of either prescribing policy or bending to policy. While I believe the sound processes and good people have supported these purposes and avoided these pitfalls in the past, it is also important that the American people and their surrogates, the Congress, have confidence that this is the case. I would like to assure them that I have recently taken steps to reinforce and further strengthen our already strong procedures, and have worked closely with our personnel to assure that they understand the importance the President and I place on this issue. I have especially looked at my own role in the process, to assure myself that the independence of the intelligence process is maintained at

several key points and to foster full discussion of draft products at the senior level of the Intelligence Community prior to publication, one of the most important safeguards in the system. I am convinced that with the process we now have in place, the safeguards that have been strengthened in that process, and the professionalism of the people we have carrying it out, that integrity and objectivity are being well served.

Public Affairs, would like to
see you at 2:30 today :

STAT

Needs your input (also Dick Kerr's) for Bill
Baker on possible statement responding to an
article that will appear in next Sunday's NYT--
re State (Secy Shultz) criticism of analytical
process--what sort of statement Judge Webster
might make. She is looking thru materials you
have provided ~~and~~ *Bill*

(we agreed on 2:30--it could be some other time
if you prefer)

- B.

+ *Shultz*
+ *Fried H.*

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE	12 Aug 87
TO: C/NIC			
ROOM NO.	BUILDING ✓		
REMARKS: [] is attempting to get the speech itself--Public Affairs is working on <i>it getting</i> <i>it to her</i> — []			
FROM:			
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION	

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STAT

Webster Plans Inquiry Into CIA Iran Role

By Ruth Marcus
Washington Post Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 8—CIA Director William H. Webster said today he will bring in an outside counsel to investigate the agency's role in the Iran-contra affair and determine whether disciplinary action is necessary against CIA employees.

Webster said reports that he is conducting a housecleaning at the Central Intelligence Agency were "premature," but he plans "to designate a special counsel who was not a part of the agency at the time" to determine whether there were violations of CIA rules or statutes.

Speaking to reporters at the American Bar Association convention here, Webster also said President Reagan's new procedures to inform Congress within 48 hours about most covert operations might have permitted the administration to withhold congressional notice of the Iran arms deal.

"Always in the background . . . is the president's constitutional right to withhold information," Webster said. "Certainly under the agreement, under the constitutional prerogatives it could have been withheld."

But he said the administration is committed to providing the "earliest possible notice" of covert activities, and in most circumstances Congress would be informed before the activity was launched.

Webster said the 48-hour notice provision, contained in a letter Friday from Reagan to the chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, "applies to the finding itself, not the implementation of the finding. It is intended that Congress be notified prior to undertaking an activity in all but the most exigent types of situations."

In "the very few" cases in which Congress is not promptly notified, he said, there will be "an ongoing reevaluation . . . of when it is time to tell, not simply a decision not to tell and putting it on the back burner."

Webster declined to comment on reports about the role in the Iran-contra affair of his predecessor, the late William J. Casey.

"Like every other American who has . . . watched any of it unfold on television, I have my personal views. But I'd rather keep them to myself right now, because they're just speculation," Webster said.

"I've seen a lot of William Caseys portrayed by a lot of different witnesses, and I know that there's very little in a documentary way to support what's been said," he added.

Asked about the circumstances of Casey's death, Webster said he did not "believe that there is any evidence of any conspiratorial activity at work." However, he said, "I suppose that's one more of the great mysteries that will always haunt us."

Webster said increasing U.S. involvement in the Persian Gulf poses a heightened risk of Iranian terrorist activity. But he said it is "more likely it will increase in other parts of the world before it comes to the United States."

In a speech before his news conference, Webster stressed the "essential role" of covert action along with the importance of congressional oversight.

"There must be a trustworthy system of oversight and accountability, which builds, rather than erodes, trust between those who have the intelligence collection responsibility and those who act as surrogates for the American people," he said.

"Having seen some of the responsibilities for covert action move outside the CIA into the National Security Council and, fortunately, removed therefrom never to go back again, we have only added to the confusion, suspicions and the ill-ease of the American people," Webster said.

He also said it is important that the CIA "be seen as giving our best estimates, not to 'cook the books' or to shape or influence policy."

Trott to Be Nominated To U.S. Appeals Court